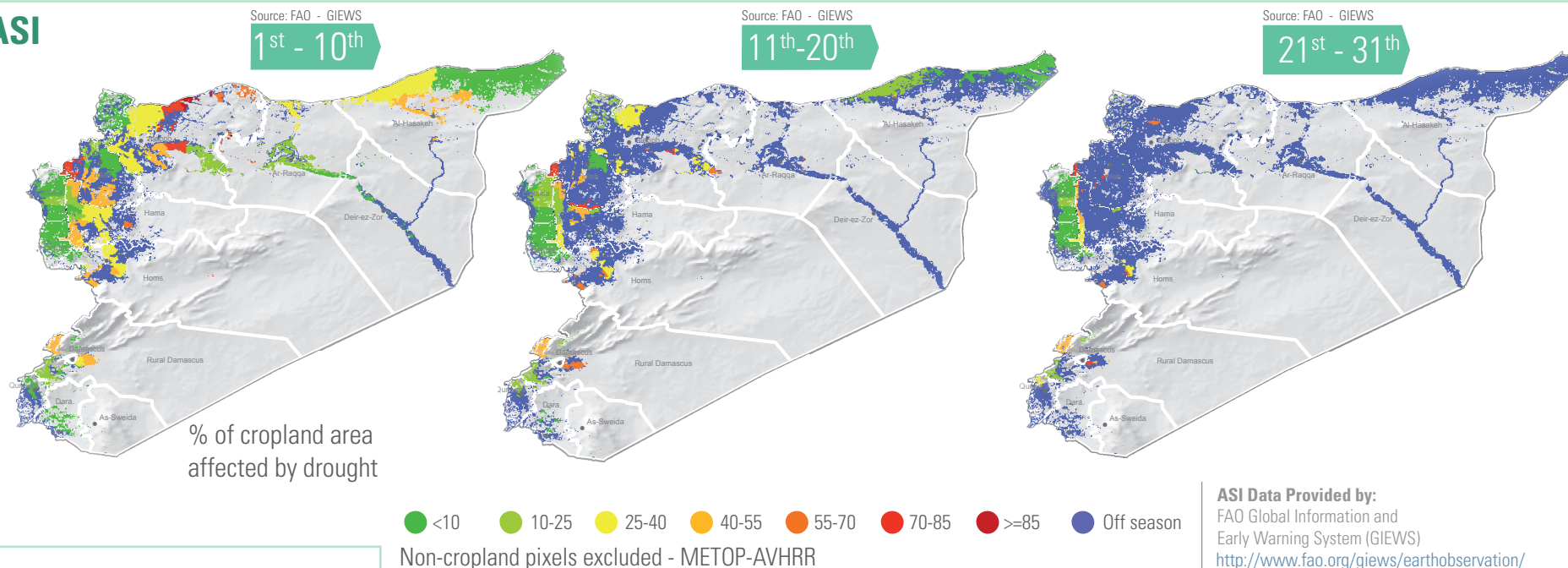**RFSAN**

The Agricultural Stress Index (ASI) combines vegetation condition and temperature variables to illustrate the level of water stress experienced by crops in specific geographic areas. The compiled results are analysed longitudinally by comparing current values to the long-term minimum and maximum values and by spatially aggregating agricultural areas by administrative area.

## ASI

Source: FAO - GIEWS
### 1st - 10th

Source: FAO - GIEWS
### 11th-20th

Source: FAO - GIEWS
### 21st - 31st



% of cropland area affected by drought

Legend: <10 | 10-25 | 25-40 | 40-55 | 55-70 | 70-85 | >=85 | Off season

Non-cropland pixels excluded - METOP-AVHRR

**ASI Data Provided by:**
FAO Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS)
http://www.fao.org/giews/earthobservation/

## Analysis

The total amount of rainfall in May 2017 was below average compared to the May long-term average (LTA) of 2001-2016 in parts of northern governorates such as Aleppo, Ar-Raqqa, Al-Hasakeh as well as in parts of Lattakia, Deir-ez-Zor, Homs and Idleb. The rest of the country received average to above average rainfall, which could impact seasonal fruits and vegetables positively. In comparison to May 2016, rainfall levels this year were mostly near or above the levels of the same month last year across all governorates except in parts of Aleppo, Ar-Raqqa and Al-Hasakeh where rainfall amounts were lower. Lower precipitation levels were also observed in pockets of Homs and Deir-ez-Zor governorates.

The May analysis of the Agricultural Stress Index (ASI) shows that harvesting of winter crops (wheat and barley) is almost complete in most agricultural areas. These areas are now highlighted in blue on the ASI map. Though moisture stress was experienced in February, particularly in northern cropland areas of Syria, the precipitation received in March and April led to improved vegetation in large parts of important wheat-and-barley-producing governorates such as Al-Hasakeh and Aleppo. Field reports have indicated overall good crop growth over the growing season in most crop-producing areas. The cereal yield will most likely be more affected by conflict and timely access to quality agricultural inputs than precipitation deviations.

*Please note that the ASI is based on remotely sensed data only, there is no confirmation on what crops have been planted.*

## Rainfall Difference

### 2017 May - 2016 May

### 2017 May - Long-term average



-250 mm | +250 mm
No difference
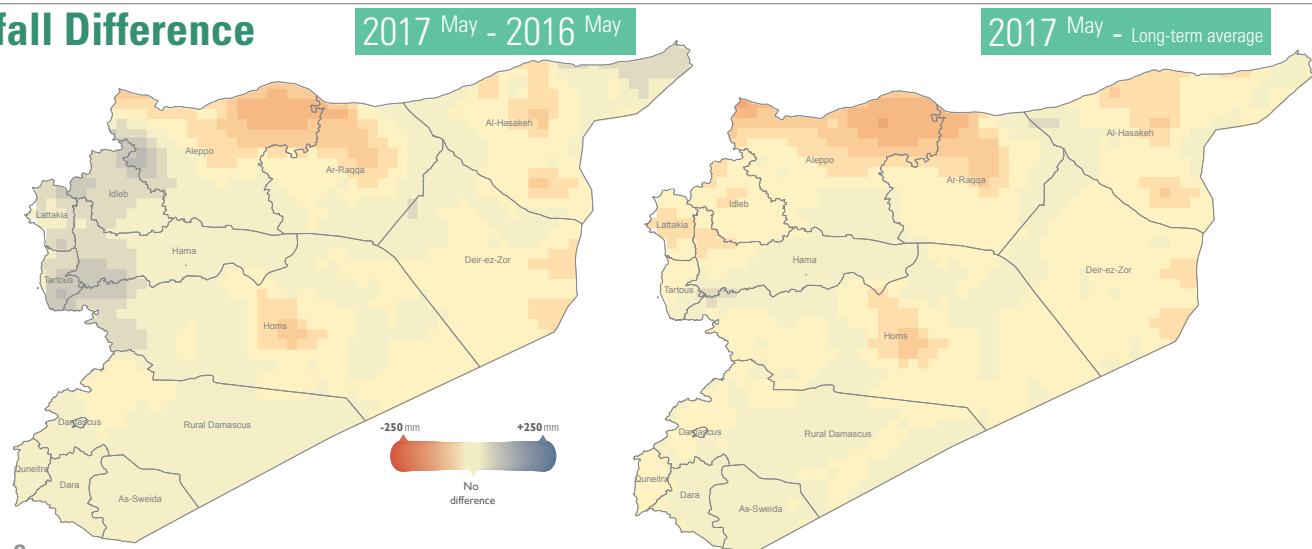
**REF Data Sources:**
**RFE 2.0:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Climate Prediction Center (CPC) Rainfall Estimator (RFE). Daily data is downloaded from CPC and monthly 15 year averages and monthly anomalies are processed by RFSAN.

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